
Report of the Executive Secretary of the CPA: Submitted to the Central Executive Committee at Meeting of November 15, 1919.

by C.E. Ruthenberg

A document from the Comintern Archive, f. 515, op. 1, d. 7, ll. 8-10.

I am submitting to you the following summary of the work of the past two months in order to give the members of the committee some idea of the progress of our organization.

Organization Work.

About the 15th of September, when I returned to Chicago to begin work, we mailed to each former local of the Socialist Party a copy of *The Communist* containing the report of the convention of the party together with the constitution and program adopted. With this was sent a charter application and a letter stating the conditions on which branches might affiliate with the party.

A second mailing was made about the 15th of October, consisting of a circular on the question of unity and the situation which developed at Chicago. A third circular containing the reply of the CEC to the invitation for a unity conference, with some comment thereon, is now being mailed.

Charter applications were also mailed to all the Federation branches with a letter stating what was necessary to affiliate with the Communist Party.

Thus far more than five hundred charters have been issued and applications are coming in daily. It is, however, impossible to correctly estimate the membership as yet. Many organizations are still unaffiliated and even the Federation

branches have not all secured their charters. Probably not before the first of the year will the work of organization in this respect be completed.

The German Organization.

As the members of the committee are aware the Executive Committee of the German Federation endeavored to deliver that body to the Communist Labor Party. By employing Comrade Friedman and issuing a German weekly we have been able to secure the affiliation of about thirty branches having a membership of close to 2500. More branches are sending in their application daily.

Finnish and Scandinavian Federations.

A strong sentiment for affiliation with the Communist Party developed at the Finish Federation Convention recently held. The convention determined to remain independent as a Federation and permit the members to join any party they desired so. It would be well for the committee to consider the question of securing the services of a Finnish comrade to take up the work of building Communist Branches.

The Scandinavian Federation is voting on the question of its future affiliation. A letter addressed to the branches of this Federation by the Central Executive Committee might have a desirable influence.

Young Peoples Communist League.

With this report I am submitting a number of communications in regard to the organization of YPCL and the attitude of the YPSL.† The convention decided that YPCL should be organized under the jurisdiction of the party. The question is submitted to the committee for a decision in regard to the policy to be pursued.

Literature.

About 15,000 copies of Pamphlet #1 containing the Manifesto, Program, and Constitution have been sold. Pamphlet #2 containing *The Development of Socialism from Science to Action* by Karl Radek is now in preparation and it is proposed to publish as quickly as possible a debate of the Communist Party and IWW, between I.E. Ferguson and Harold Lord Varney. Besides these pamphlets we are selling *The Proletarian Revolution in Russia*, *Revolutionary Socialism*, and *The Social Revolution in Germany* [Louis C. Fraina titles published by others].

Bundle orders for *The Communist* are increasing in number as are the single subscriptions we are receiving. It seems, however, that none of our subscribers receive papers when sent singly and we are having considerable trouble in the delivery of our bundles.

It is planned to issue the first number of *The Communist International* about Dec. 1.

Leaflets.

The response to our call for orders for propaganda leaflets has been very gratifying. The first leaflet was issued in connection with the establishment of Martial Law at Gary, Ind. Of this leaflet over 100,000 were promptly distributed in the steel centres and since we have printed another 100,000.

Leaflet #2 dealing with the Blockade of So-

viet Russia has had a circulation of a quarter of a million.

Orders for "Your Shop," the third leaflet, are still coming in and the quarter million printed will undoubtedly be distributed without trouble.

The fourth leaflet, "The State — Strike-Breaker," is now being sent out.

It is my intention to push this matter of the distribution of leaflets so as to build up an organization that will handle a million leaflets of any particular issue in not more than a week's time. We will have to rely increasingly on literature for our propaganda work and leaflets are the best possible method of agitation.

Finances.

The total receipts of the party from the middle of September when I took charge, up to Oct. 31, were \$16,819.24. The expenditures were \$11,381.67, leaving a balance of \$5,437.57 in the party treasury. Of this amount \$2,085.00 is a loan made for the purpose of publishing literature, which will have to be repaid in another month. A detailed statement of receipts and expenses is attached.†

Printing Plant.

One of the big handicaps to the party work is the difficulty in having our literature printed. Three times we have been thrown out of print shops without any notice and we have been obliged to miss one issue and delay other issues of *The Communist* on that account. The committee should take up and consider the question of establishing a party printing plant at once.

Communist Labor Party.

The reply of the Communist Labor Party and a number of the resolutions on the question of

†- This supplementary document is missing from the archive.

unity are submitted to the committee herewith.†

Summary.

For the convenience of the committee I submit the following summary of matters to be acted upon:

1. Communist Labor Party reply and unity resolutions.
2. Report to the International, which was held up by action of the committee.
3. Relation with the Soviet Bureau.‡
4. Correspondence regarding YPCL.
5. Finnish and Scandinavian Federations.
6. Printing Plant.

Fraternally Submitted,

C.E. Ruthenberg,
Executive Secretary

†- This supplementary document is missing from the archive.

‡- Reference is to the Russian Soviet Government Bureau in New York, headed by Ludwig C.A.K. Martens, which was perceived by the Communist Party of America to be run with a pro-CLP and anti-CPA orientation.

Edited by Tim Davenport.
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